

What is the Illinois Liquor Control Commission?



Illinois Liquor Control Commission



State of Illinois
Illinois Liquor Control Commission

Functions of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC)

Compliance

Ensures that licensees comply with the provisions of the Illinois Liquor Control Act of 1934 and its Rules and Regulations.

Licenses

Issues approximately 28,000 state liquor licenses each year of varying classifications for the three tiers of the liquor industry. Strict qualifying criteria must be followed to obtain a liquor license as defined in the Illinois Liquor Control Act, which includes ownership information, local licensing, tax status and sales tax history. Revenues collected from liquor license fees fund all Commission operations.

Inspections

Conducts approximately 26,000 routine inspections of licensed premises via its team of 18 agents who are stationed throughout the state. Upon finding violations of the Illinois Liquor Control Act, electronic reports are transmitted to the central office for adjudication.

Violations

Violations are reviewed and evaluated to determine the severity of the offense and method by which cases are to be adjudicated. These range from Offers in Compromise to citations requiring formal hearings.



Hearings

ILCC's Chairman and six Commissioners hold 18 formal hearings each year. They rule on the most serious cases – including those affecting the health and safety of communities – and hear appeals brought to the Commission by licensees who wish to challenge the local liquor commissioner's decision.

Taxes

Works jointly with the Illinois Department of Revenue to collect delinquent sales tax payments from liquor licensees.

Mail and Web Orders

Monitors and regulates mail order and internet sales of alcohol products within Illinois and collaborates with regulatory bodies from other states to prevent illegal shipments of alcohol.

Education

Provides an industry education program, which focuses primarily on the ILCC's enforcement practices; interpretation of Illinois liquor control laws and best practices; and public awareness efforts regarding the consequences of underage drinking.

Responsible Sales

Encourages responsible selling and serving of alcohol by licensing and promoting the Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) program. Additionally, to keep communities safe, various materials have been created – including training guides, posters, and fliers – to reduce incidents of driving under the influence of alcohol and decrease illegal sales of alcoholic beverages to minors.

Compliance

ILCC special agents supervise underage purchasers during random ID checks. These checks, performed statewide throughout the State of Illinois, test retail sales personnel on their duty to perform proper ID checks in the sale of alcohol. Agents also conduct periodic compliance sweeps in conjunction with other state and local enforcement agencies to check for violations above and beyond Illinois liquor laws.



ILCC Website: www.illinois.gov/ilcc

The ILCC website is your “one-stop shop” for all liquor-related information. It’s where you can download a license application, confirm existing liquor laws and regulations, request educational materials, and much more. The following is an overview of our homepage showing the location of specific areas of interest. You can navigate to all available information on our website via this easy-to-use page. Whether you are seeking a general summary of the Liquor Commission or more specific and detailed information, you can find it simply by visiting www.illinois.gov/ilcc

The website contains:

ILCC Divisions

The ILCC website provides brief descriptions of all Divisions of the Commission.

Contact Email

To send an email to an ILCC staff member or file an online complaint go to the Commissions email address ILCC@Illinois.gov.

View and Download Forms

All ILCC forms and Licenses can be found on the website. For your convenience, data can now be entered directly onto all forms, and the file can be saved to your computer.

ILCC Board & Hearing Dates

There is a listing of current Commissioners and all upcoming Board and hearing dates.

News and Issues

Contains the latest Liquor Commission news, press releases, and other important information. All past and current ILCC newsletters could be found on the website.

Request Materials

You can fill out the online form requesting the Liquor Commission’s FREE licensee packet, required signage, and posters.

Program Overviews

A description of the Commission’s educational programs can be found on the site.



An Overview: ILCC Divisions

Chairman and Commissioners

The Chairman and Commissioners are appointed to a six-year term by the Governor and require confirmation by the Illinois Senate. They hold formal hearings to weigh violations resulting from state liquor inspections or hear appeals challenging local liquor commissioner orders. In addition, the Chairman and one Commissioner serve on the City of Chicago's Liquor License Appeal Commission.

Investigations

The Investigations Division is responsible for conducting liquor inspections at over 26,000 licensed entities throughout Illinois. This Division is divided into geographical areas and includes a staff of 24 agents who average 1,000 inspections each year. These agents use laptop computers to ensure standardized reporting and consistent application of enforcement. Agents respond to complaints received from the general public regarding violations. They serve as liaisons to local liquor commissioners and law enforcement agencies, and they conduct orientation inspections for new licensees upon request.

Legal

The Legal Division is responsible for counseling the Commissioners and executive staff on interpretations of the Illinois Liquor Control Act and its Rules and Regulations. This Division reviews all violations to weigh the severity of the offenses. When necessary, the Division holds pre-disciplinary conferences with licensees. A staff attorney reviews more serious violations and prepares citations for formal hearings to be heard before the Commissioners. The Legal Division continuously communicates with the public providing explanations and interpretations of the Illinois Liquor Control Act and its Rules and Regulations – including Happy Hour prohibitions, advertising, licensing and purchasing.

Licensing

Licensing renewals can be done online using a credit card.

Steps for the online renewal option:

1. Log into your MyTax Illinois account by visiting mytax.illinois.gov on the web.
2. Click on the “Renew” link next to the license period under your license number.
3. Enter the required information and provide attachments as requested (option to add attachment in left sidebar menu).
4. Pay the license fee with an electronic debit or MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or Visa credit card. **Note:** The credit card service provider will assess a convenience fee. (New! The credit card payment option is now available.)

Note: Processing of renewals generally takes one to five business days. When processed, you will be able to view and print your new license from the “Letters” link in your MyTax Illinois account.

Industry Education

The Industry Education Division (IED) is responsible for educating the liquor industry regarding the laws that govern liquor and tobacco sales throughout the state. This Division also administers the Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) program. The IED makes available to licensees a variety of educational publications including newsletter, booklets, posters, news releases, and signs. This Division conducts alcohol educational presentations in cities across the state, and continues to improve communications with the liquor industry and government agencies through the Commission's website and other distributed materials.

Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training

BASSET

The Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) program is the State of Illinois' seller/server training program. The program is an educational training tool for sellers/servers of alcoholic beverages to serve responsibly and stay within the law. The BASSET program focuses on preventative measure to discourage over-consumption and keep intoxicated drivers off the roads.



The BASSET Program addresses five topic areas: the physical properties of alcohol, intervention and prevention techniques, how to properly check identification cards and driver's licenses, state and local laws regarding alcohol service, and Dram Shop liability.

In order to conduct seller/server training courses, a BASSET license is required, which the Commission administers. There are currently over 220 BASSET licensees throughout the state. The licensees consist of independent contractors, businesses and law enforcement officers. BASSET training is mandatory in the State of Illinois for all servers, bartenders and security detail who check identification and work in on-premise establishments such as a bar, restaurant, nightclub, tavern or movie theater. Note: Some municipalities across the state do require BASSET training for off-premise establishments, or packaged goods. Licensees are advised to check their local ordinances to verify if BASSET training is required for off-premise establishments.

Once completed, BASSET course participants will be equipped with the skills necessary to prevent alcohol-related mishaps, and spot fake IDs.

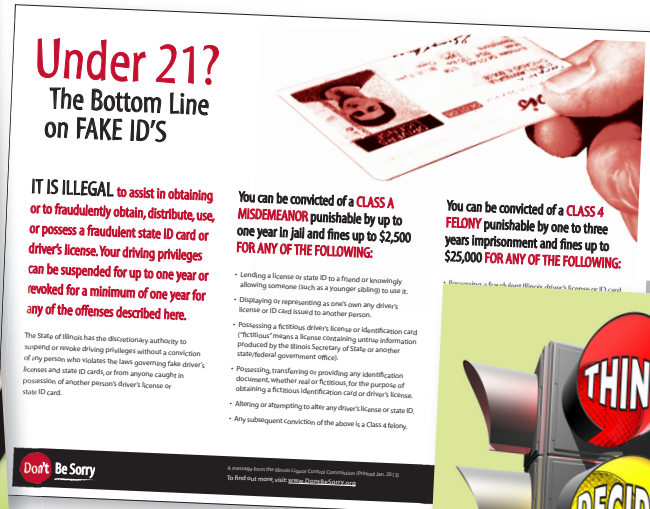
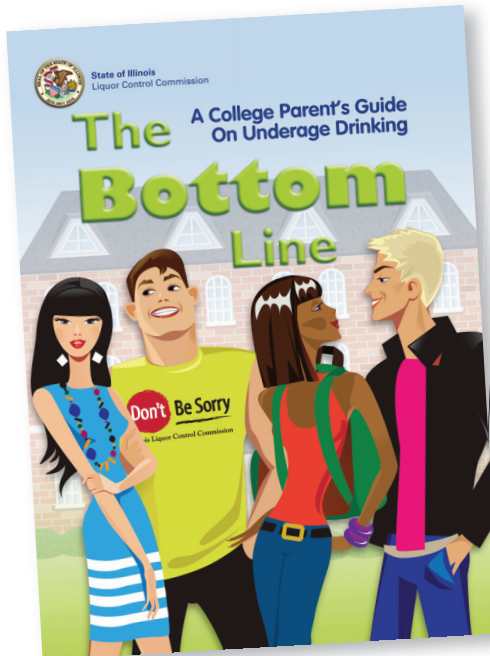


Under 21

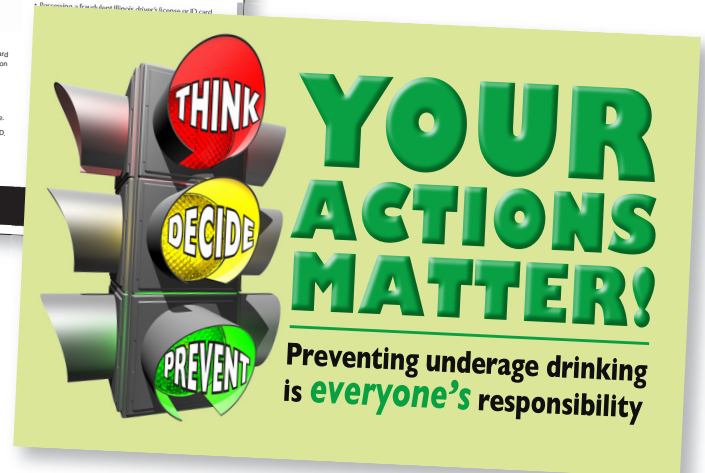
Under 21

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission is committed to raising awareness about the negative consequences of underage drinking. Educational materials and signage are created to reach specific groups.

The ILCC offers school presentations throughout Illinois by educating students regarding the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Great emphasis is placed on the health, social, and legal consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction. The presentations are very informative and evidence based, encouraging healthy lifestyles and decision making. Data is used based on the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS).



Examples of **ILCC Under 21** Educational Materials



Illinois Liquor Control Commission Mission Statement

“To protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Illinois through careful control and regulation of the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic liquors and through the development of strategies to reduce youth access to alcohol products and responsible beverage service.”

Check out the ILCC's
social media channels



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